

the Nation

Volume 1 No. 2 • December 15, 1993
every two weeks

FREE TO ALL CREE

**VAL D'OR
HOCKEY
BROOMBALL
TOURNAMENT**

**OUGE-
BOUGOUMOU
COMES HOME**

**CREE
SCHOOL
BOARD
REPORT CARD**

AND MORE...



Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien



A Holiday Message From Minister Ronald A. Irwin

The holiday season is traditionally a happy time – a time for family and friends – a time for new beginnings.

This year has been an important one for me, for the government, and for the people of this country. We are about to start out on a new road together, a road that I hope will lead to a brighter future for all Canadians, those living in the southern part of our great land, those in the North, Native and non-Native.

The Government of Canada has made a commitment to build a country whose economy is strong and which respects social justice; a country proud of its diversity – a country that is honest, compassionate and competent.

Part of this commitment is aimed squarely at Aboriginal people and Northern communities, and as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that is my particular challenge for the coming period. I have already had a number of meetings with key Aboriginal and Northern leaders. I have taken part in the opening of the new legislature in the Northwest Territories, visited with regional chiefs to hear about their plans and concerns, and toured Native communities to see first hand the progress that has been made and the needs that still exist.

What I have learned so far convinces me more than ever that we face important challenges – but together, First Nations, Northerners, the Government of Canada, and indeed all Canadians have the potential to achieve great things. I look forward to working with you to make that goal a reality.

I wish you all a happy holiday season!



PHOTO BY: PIERRE LEMAY

GIVE OF YOURSELVES THIS CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas to all the Cree Nations. Our first issue was fun. Never having put out a newspaper before, we found it was the kind of experience that comes along once in a lifetime. Waiting for it to come off the presses once all our work was done was truly exciting. I felt like a kid on Christmas morning when you wake up too early and your parents tell you to go back to sleep. This is because it's about 5 a.m. You lie in your bed unable to sleep. But now I'm an adult and, of course, I'm supposed to be above such things. I guess there is a little bit of the child left in all of us.

I hope you will consider *The Nation* our Christmas present to you. You see, our vision of *The Nation* is that it will grow and be defined by the members of the Cree Nation itself. This is not some feel-good statement. We at *The Nation* feel that not everybody's voice is heard. And that's not consistent with the Cree tradition of consensus that is a part of our culture. Our promise is that *The Nation* will aspire to hear and listen to everyone's voice.

The Nation was started up with the help of some good friends who believe in this project. It has not received any funding from such "traditional" sources as Indian Affairs. In fact, to start up, we didn't apply for any grants from any en-

tity. We will approach different government agencies for training grants, but we will always remain an independent publication. The paper is Cree and will strive to reflect the values of our way of life in all our actions.

We ask you to join us and share with us what you have to offer. This is a request for your knowledge, your memories, your opinions, your ways. All these things must be passed on to the future. We are in danger of losing some of our past as our elders get older. Some may say this generation doesn't want or appreciate what the elders have to offer, but history tells a different story.

When I was involved in the Great Whale campaign in the United States, I had the opportunity to meet with members of many other First Nations. Many felt sorrow about the loss of their traditions, and asked for my opinions and thoughts on traditional ways of life. I replied to the best of my abilities and became aware of how much I knew. But especially, I learned how much I didn't know. Future generations will want to know what being a Cree is and means. It's up to us to preserve and protect this knowledge for them.

Give our future a Christmas present that really means something. Give something of yourself.

BY WILL NICHOLLS

CONTENTS

NEWS

5 STEVEN BEARSKIN
DEFENDS CREE CONSTRUCTION

7 EASTMAIN-1 PROJECT
O'REILLY SUGGESTS A DEBATE

8 BRIEFS • HYDRO FUNDS STUDY,
HYDRO BREAKS JOBS PROMISE

20 VIOLA ROBINSON
REFLECTS ON ROYAL COMMISSION

21 CREE SCHOOL BOARD
REPORT CARD IS IN

COVER

10 VAL D'OR TOURNAMENT
FULL COVERAGE, SCORES, PHOTOS

INTERVIEW

15 ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW
AN EXCLUSIVE *NATION* INTERVIEW

CULTURE

18 CHRISTMAS STORY, POEMS,
KASHTIN ROCKS WITH ROBBIE

COMICS

22 GARFIELD
AND MORE

SPORTS

26 BASKETBALL SCORES
INTER-SCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

DECEMBER 15, 1993

PERCEPTIONS OF WHO WE ARE

BY ERNEST WEBB

Another tournament has come and gone.

I hope everyone had a safe and fun time.

The tournament means different things to different people. It's a time to play hockey, to watch, to meet old friends and make new ones from around the nation, to go Christmas shopping and, of course, to enjoy yourself.

Now just what does it mean for the people of Val d'Or? They know we come every year, but what does it actually mean to them? Is it the time when those "rich" Crees come to town to blow all their money? Is it the time when those Crees come down from the bush to take up all the rooms in town? Is it the time when "all those Crees" come to drink?

One time in Val d'Or, I was downtown sitting in a car when I saw someone I knew staggering down the street, totally drunk. He was creating quite a ruckus trying to walk down the street, with people jumping out of the way to avoid him. The people who saw him that one day will remember him that way.

Today, this person has quit drinking and is starting to regain his composure and his pride. I see him in town as he is, just a normal regular guy throughout the year.

But what will the people remember from that one weekend? The mother making her way from shop to shop buying presents for her children, or the one they had to step aside for? In truth, probably both. But that's about all.

I know the annual tournament is a time for good fun, and that a lot of people wait all year for a chance to party it up. But isn't it unfortunate that the people of Val d'Or don't get to see the Cree people during the rest of the year? They don't see us in our own communities, when we're just regular people who work at normal jobs, going to school, or out on the land.

Does the guy who was staggering down the street do this every day? For the population of Val d'Or; that's the only way they'll see him. And the mother. Is she only a shop-till-you-drop consumer?

The tournament is a long-standing institution, and I wouldn't suggest changing it a bit. But shouldn't the Crees share with our neighbours some of the more fundamental aspects of our culture? We must ask ourselves if we want to be known only for hockey and broomball, partying and shopping.

These are hardly what we believe are our culture to be, but in Val d'Or, that's all they know of us.

When we leave the urban world of Val d'Or behind to return to our own lands, to step back into our communities and culture, do they see our feasts, our music, our walking-out ceremonies, our communal interaction - our real lives?

We can bring much, much more to Val d'Or - or anywhere else for that matter. Yes, let's bring our sports and our celebratory spirit, but let's also remember, we can bring something of our culture, too.

We are hockey players, broomball players, and shoppers, just like the people of Val d'Or. But we are also hunters and trappers, cooks, dancers, singers, fiddle players and artists - just like the people of Val d'Or.

Next year, let's remember who we are. And let's remember to bring it with us and show it off.

NOTES

Just a few notes from the last issue. Some readers might have received our first issue a bit late. We are still working on our distribution. We apologize for any inconveniences. Also, we are trying to get a hold of Cree fonts for our computer so we can start printing in syllabics. Finally, we're taking a couple of weeks off for Christmas. Our next issue will come out January 19. 'Till then, all the best for the holidays from the staff of *The Nation*.

CORRECTION

Due to a technical error, an unfortunate mistake appeared in our interview with Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come in our previous edition. The following statement on page 13 appeared as a comment made by Coon-Come when in fact it was a question posed by *The Nation* to Coon-Come: "We actually tried getting hold of one of the annual reports and were told that while the Grand Council was a public entity, Cree Construction was not. Is this the manner in which our entities serve the Crees?" Coon-Come's response was: "We are public companies. That's what we've said all along." We apologize for any inconvenience the error may have caused.



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NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

BEARSKIN DEFENDS CREE CONSTRUCTION

The president of Cree Construction, Steven Bearskin, thinks the company has a public relations problem and says not enough people are aware of its positive contributions to Cree life.

"Not enough has been told about us. Just the bad things have been told," Bearskin said in a phone interview from the company's head office in Ville St-Laurent. "We're more than just a profit-oriented company."

Bearskin was responding to criticism of the company by Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come in a letter sent to the board of directors of CreeCo., Cree Construction's holding company. The letter, dated October 5, stated that Cree Construction should be more open in its annual reports and should devote more attention to creating permanent jobs and long-term economic development for Crees.

Coon-Come also scolded Cree Construction for a statement in its latest annual report saying "Cree opposition to new projects has had major impacts on Cree jobs and the results of the company." The Grand Chief called this state-

ment "a gratuitous slap in the face of the Cree people" who together are trying to stop further hydro-electric development.

"That's his opinion," responded Bearskin, who said Cree Construction was just trying to tell it like it is. "He [Coon-Come] is also responsible for the operations of the company. He's caught sometimes."

But Bearskin didn't entirely reject Coon-Come's criticisms. He said they are on the agenda for the next CreeCo. board meeting on December 15 in Val d'Or and acknowledged that many of the criticisms are valid. "They're all constructive criticisms. We're progressing slowly in those areas."

He said the company has spent a year studying the idea of moving its head office to a Cree community, and will release a report next spring. He said the idea has pros and cons.

"Politically, it would be the correct thing to do. From a business point of view, it wouldn't be a good thing."

Bearskin also admitted Cree Construction could have made a higher profit last year and agreed the firm should hire more Crees in full-time positions.

BY ALEX ROSLIN

OUGE BOUGOUMOU: SURVIVAL OF A NATION

BY WILL NICHOLLS

The story is an old one for natives, but the ending proves what Yogi Berra said all along: "It ain't over 'till it's over."

The Ouje Bougoumou Nation has fought the longest of all our nations for recognition and survival. Their problems started in the 1920s, when forestry and mining developers started exploiting their territory. In fact, the nearby town of Chibougamau was built on natural resources taken mostly from the land of the Ouje Bougoumou, and is located on an Ouje Bougoumou trapline.

In the 1930s, this nation was added to the Mistissini Band list by federal Indian Affairs officials. Throughout the years the fight for continued. The people always knew who and what they were, but had a hard time convincing the federal and provincial governments. They were forced to move many times and became scattered, living in what Canadians would call fourth world conditions. They always refused to be categorized as something they weren't. In the negotiations that resulted in the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, they were never acknowledged except for a statement that, in some distant future, they would eventually be recognized.

That day arrived this year on December 2, when the Ouje Bougoumou Band held opening ceremonies for their Nation Headquarters. This entire community is a testimony to traditional values and lifestyles in the face of overwhelming odds.

Perhaps Ted Moses, the Grand Council of the Crees' ambassador to the UN, said it best: "Today this 'impossible' community is a model for the struggle for our rights. Indigenous peoples should see that no matter how many times they are forced off their land, out of their territory - they will return."

The Ouje Bougoumou people have returned and they are now home.

The Nation welcomes letters to the editor, comment pieces and other submissions from our readers. We strive to reflect all opinions in our pages.

Saddened by gun

Letter to the Nation:

The first issue of *The Nation* was very impressive and it is good to know that there is someone, at least, informing us Crees of what is happening out there and in the Cree lands.

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the second page, where it shows a little boy holding a sign, which looks "cute." But I was kind of saddened by him carrying a rifle. I have an eight-year-old boy and I certainly didn't want him to look at this certain page because I knew he would have a lot of questions. With all the hurt the Crees are bearing right now, I find the picture very inappropriate. I really hope next time that you get very "picky" in choosing items for the newsletter.

The article on Brant Blackned was also very impressive and I had the honour of reading and explaining this item to my son and we hope that more is written on the Cree youth. This would really motivate our young Crees in reaching their goals and dreams.

Thank you for your time and keep up the good work!

A concerned mother
Mistissini

Coon-Come congratulates

Letter to the Nation:

Congratulations on your first issue. There is a great need for an independent media in our communities. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Matthew Coon-Come
Grand Chief

Hydro-Quebec congratulates

Letter to the Nation:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your initiative and to wish you and your publication the best success.

Serge Dubé
Advisor and head negotiator,
Vice-President's Office
on Amerindian and Inuit Affairs,
Hydro-Quebec



PHOTO BY: GW TUNDRA

Proud about the Nation

Letter to the Nation:

I wish to extend my congratulations and support for *The Nation*. It always gives me great pleasure and pride to see our people achieve new and needed levels of infrastructure.

There is a need to promote and preserve our cultures in the face of many outside influences.

A newspaper can help to achieve this by catering to the needs of the peoples it serves.

The Cree Nations are indeed fortunate to have such a newspaper as I saw on my visit to *The Nation* offices.

I will continue to look in on my Cree brothers and sisters, and wish to say that I will as always support your efforts in the campaign against Great Whale.

Many of my people feel the same

way. We were among the first tribes to lose our lands. Stand strong.

B. Star Curtliss
Ma. Commissioner, Indian Affairs
Nipmuc and Central

Mrs. Santa likes Brant

Letter to the Nation:

Merry Christmas!

One of my elves recently brought me a copy of *The Nation*. It was enjoyable to read while on one of my breaks from making gifts for all the children. Mrs. Santa had a twinkle in her eye when she read about Brant. It's always nice to see one of the children doing well. Don't forget to tell the children to write to me and tell me what they want this year. My address is: Santa Claus, North Pole, Canada, HOH OH0.

Watchiya and Meegwich,
Santa



Is BACON ON THE WAY OUT?

DEBATE EM-1 STRATEGY, CREES TOLD

Crees should debate how far they want to go in opposing the proposed Eastmain-1 hydro-electric project, say members of the Cree steering committee dealing with the project.

"How far do you go? Let's have that debate," said lawyer James O'Reilly at a meeting of the committee on Dec. 9 in downtown Montreal. "I have yet to meet a Cree who says, 'I am in favour of EM-1.' Where there may be a bit of a difference is in what happens if the police come in smashing people's heads. How far are people willing to go not to have an Eastmain project?"

O'Reilly said the legal avenues of challenging EM-1 are drying up. "If it was a hard hill to climb before, it's a mountain to climb now. From a legal point of view, it's a very, very difficult road to overcome."

O'Reilly made the comments as committee members discussed a resolution passed by the Cree Youth Council opposing all new hydro-electric projects on Cree territory, including EM-1. Hydro-Quebec's most recent development plan envisions bringing EM-1 on-line by 1998. The EM-1 reservoir on the Eastmain River would generate 465 megawatts of power.

"I'm not suggesting one form of action or another, but you have to weigh the alternatives," O'Reilly said. "There should be a discussion with the Youth Council members. It's easier sometimes just to say, 'no,' but it's harder to come up with a follow-up."

Kenneth Gilpin, chief of the Eastmain band council, said he would send the Youth Council a letter explaining the steering committee's stance on EM-1. He also plans to invite Youth Council members to Eastmain. "I was wondering to what extent they had an opportunity to hear an explanation of the EM-1 court case and the position we have taken."

Thomas Neeposh, deputy chief of Mistissini, said the Youth Council resolution, passed before the recent annual general assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees, took him by surprise. "They need more information. They're not fully aware of the past agreements."

Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come, who attended part of the meeting, said Crees have lost some of their leverage in battling EM-1. "We don't have the leverage any more."

But O'Reilly suggested the Quebec government is in disarray, and may be in no position to proceed with the project in any event. Policy decisions are on hold until Daniel Johnson takes over as premier on Dec. 15. Afterwards, a cabinet shuffle is expected that may turf Energy Minister Lise Bacon out of her portfolio. In a recent public slugfest between Bacon and Hydro-Quebec over whether the utility should promote more co-generation, the utility didn't back down, O'Reilly said. This suggests even

Hydro officials suspect Bacon's days are numbered.

BY ALEX ROSLIN

HYDRO-QUEBEC TO FUND CREE STUDY

It cost \$400 million and was 5,000 pages long, but Hydro-Quebec's environmental-impact study of the proposed Great Whale project is incomplete, admits the giant utility. Hydro-Quebec agreed to provide \$450,000 to fund a Cree-designed study of the social impacts of the \$13.3-billion project after Crees refused to fill out a simple questionnaire about the project. The Grand Council of the Crees called the questionnaire a joke. Hydro-Quebec issued the questionnaire after the utility was criticized for not incorporating local residents knowledge of their environment into the study.

"Hydro caved in," said Bill Namagoose, executive-director of the Grand Council of the Crees. "It's a major admission that their way of consultation was not proper." The report is expected to be released by May. A 130-day public-comment period on Hydro's impact study is to start in January.

- by William Nicholls

THE HYDRO JOB CREATION MYTH

Hydro-Quebec has broken an agreement to create jobs for Crees, says a study by Universalis, a Montreal consultants' group. According to the 1986 Opemiska Agreement, Hydro-Quebec was to create 154 person-years of employment for the Crees. Today's reality, says Universalis, is that only 10 to 20 person-years of employment have been created since 1986.

Most of the jobs appeared to be only seasonal, Universalis said. In cases where it was unclear, the consultants gave Hydro-Quebec the benefit of the doubt and considered the job to be permanent. The figures in the study, a draft copy of which was obtained by *The Nation*, are even higher than the utility's own estimates. The utility itself was unable to provide exact figures.

"This is proof that Hydro-Quebec is unwilling to work with the Crees to bring about the benefits from the existing projects," said Bill Namagoose, of the Grand Council of the Crees. "It's true that this type of effort should have been there since the 1970s. It's proof that the Crees have difficulty getting long-term employment benefits from

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

the projects. Crees will continue to get slashing and rock-washer jobs that'll end when construction is over. This is a pathological situation that has to be corrected."

- by William Nicholls

HYDRO-QUEBEC PROFITS UP

Hydro-Quebec announced a profit of \$386 million for the first nine months of 1993. Profits soared 12.5 per cent higher than during the same period last year and revenues topped \$5.1 billion. The utility made \$2.75 billion in new investments during the first nine months of the year, mostly in phase II of the La Grande complex.

- by Nation staff

GRAND COUNCIL GOES INTO OVERTIME ON POLICE PROBLEMS

The Grand Council of the Crees met behind closed doors in Montreal's Sheraton Centre on December 10 to discuss policing problems in Cree territory. Prior to the meeting, Vice-Grand

Chief Kenny Blacksmith had reopened negotiations on policing with Quebec Public Security Minister Claude Ryan. Discussion at the meeting centred around the composition of the negotiating team and whether changes to it were necessary.

The meeting was heated. Before things were fully resolved, Chief Billy Diamond left to catch a plane home. Shortly after, others began using the elevators. A full report on policing will appear in the next issue.

- by Nation staff

MOHAWK ACTIVIST LOUIS HALL DIES

Traditionalist Mohawk activist, writer and painter Louis Karoniaktajeh Hall died in his home in the Mohawk community of Kahnawake on December 9. He was 76.

Hall was an expert on the Great Law of Peace, the constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy, and took part in lengthy negotiations with New York State that led to the establishment of the Ganienkeh Mohawk territory.

Hall was a prolific writer who finished the last page of his autobiography, *A Tale of One Mohawk*, just before he died. Among his other writings are *The Warriors' Handbook* and *Rebuilding the Iroquois Confederacy*. Among those attending his visitation at the Mohawk Nation Longhouse in Kahnawake were three representatives of the American Indian Movement.

- by Alex Roslin

NORTHERN EAGLES' LATEST RELEASE

The same day Hughboy Records launched the album *The Best Cree Fiddlers of James Bay*, the Nation received a copy of the latest recording to come out of Mike's Studio - *My People (Our People)* from the Northern Eagles, a Cree-language country-rock band. It's sure to be a hit on the morning shows of many a Cree community radio station this Christmas and New Years.

- by Nation staff

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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and Happy New Year.*

CHRETIEN OWES US, SAYS MOSES

That's right, it's a long overdue account. Normally, politicians promise a chicken in every pot, but here's one politician who took one. The story goes that in the early 1970s, when the governments were desperate to negotiate with the Crees, Jean Chretien was Ottawa's man on the spot. He rushed down to Val d'Or to talk with the Crees. During the meeting, he and the Crees apparently went to eat and our Jean left without paying and ended up stiffing the Crees for a chicken dinner.

"Chretien owes us a chicken," says Ted Moses, the Cree ambassador to the UN. *The Nation* wonders, has anyone thought to invoice the PM?

- by William Nicholls

MONTREAL: HYDRO-TOWN

Montreal was named the headquarters of the new International Council of Hydrogen Development and Cooperation in early December. Industry representatives from nine countries launched the council at a congress held in Montreal to promote the use of hydrogen power. The little-studied energy source is being touted as an ecological alternative to gasoline.

Hydro-Quebec is a major promoter of hydrogen power and already plans to sell up to 25,000 megawatts to a European consortium for use in cars and buses. The utility envisages converting power from northern hydro-electric projects into hydrogen power at a plant in Sept-Iles. The world hydrogen council will have an initial budget of \$200,000.

- by Nation staff

HEALTH THROUGH SELF-GOVERNMENT

First Nations health services are in an abominable state, and the remedy is self-government, says the Canadian Medical Association. Improving the nuts and bolts of health care is only part of the solution for the health problems. In a recent brief to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the association called on Ottawa to quickly settle First Nations land claims and give First Nations greater control over their communities through self-government. "The underlying roots of the problem must be addressed," said the association, which represents health professionals.

The brief said improvements in health care can only occur with input from First Nations.

First Nations people die an average of 10 years sooner than the Canadian average; First Nations children die at twice the rate of other children; and rare diseases like tuberculosis and meningitis flourish in many First Nations communities. The association called on doctors to be more receptive to aboriginal approaches to healing.

- by Nation staff

AMAZON MEGA-DEVELOPMENT OVER?

The president of Brazil has announced that the "era of mega-development is a thing of the past" to the National Amazon Council. The Amazon basin makes up 57 per cent of Brazil. Developers are calling for the legalization of gold mining and a plan for the exploitation of the basin's forestry potential. The basin is also threatened by hydro-electric dams. Human-rights advocates say that some 2,000 of the indigenous Yanomami people have been killed by outsiders because of the mineral-rich lands they inhabit in the area.

The Brazilian president said development projects must follow new ecological and economic guidelines.

- by Nation staff

STANDOFF IN CONNECTICUT

The standoff may be over, but the war has not been won for the Golden Hill Pagueesukq First Nation. The Pagueesukq Tribal Council walked into a hornet's nest when it opened a small tobacco shop on its 106-acre reservation near Colchester, Connecticut last April. The state ordered the smoke shop closed and surrounded the community with hundreds of state troopers.

A lengthy standoff ensued, lasting as long as the sieges of Pine Ridge and



NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

Oka. Half-way through the conflict, Moonface Bear, who is both chief of the tribal council and the war chief, was charged with illegally selling tobacco. Chief Bear was recently elected to the leadership of the American Indian Movement, the militant U.S.-wide aboriginal organization famous for the standoff at Wounded Knee. He finally surrendered to state authorities in November and intends to fight the charges in court. Under a 1989 Connecticut law, the governor is obliged to negotiate all taxes to be collected on any trade conducted by members of a recognized First Nation. But the Pagueesukq met with stalling when they tried to enter talks on the tobacco shop two years ago.

The state's heavy-handed tactics have turned Chief Bear into a media star in the U.S. Northeast, says Carla Nemiroff, a Montreal solidarity activist who visited the Pagueesukq. "He has tons of support."

- by Alex Roslin

COVER

Val d'Or

HOCKEY BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT



NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND



a big hit

There weren't enough hotel rooms in Val d'Or to hold them all. A record 3 to 4,000 people attended the 13th annual Val d'Or hockey and broomball tournament this December. They had 600 hotel rooms to choose from in Val d'Or, but it wasn't enough. Several teams had to stay in Amos.

"It was one of the largest tournaments I've ever seen," said Walter Hester Jr., president of the tournament. In all, 900 players were there representing 57 teams. And, despite some minor scheduling misunderstandings, Hester said the tournament was a big hit with the crowd.

Four of the five final playoffs went into overtime, and the winners in all five were decided by only one point.

"The crowd was on the edge of their seats. People said it was one of the best tournaments they've ever seen," said Hester, who's been involved with the tournament for 10 years. "We worked hard on it. The directors did a good job setting it up."

If all goes well, Hester added, tournament-goers can expect some new events next year in Val d'Or - including square dancing, basketball and volleyball.

John Boudrias, coordinator of the tournament, said the tournament is important because it helps bring Crees together. "When it started, there wasn't too much communication between the communities. It's a great opportunity for the communities to communicate."

Boudrias, who's been working on the tournament since it started in 1980, also thought this year's tournament was a success. "It's well set up now. Before, there was a different committee each year. Now, the recreation directors in each community have a mandate to do it," he said. "It will continue for a long time."



NATION PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND

VAL D'OR HOCKEY AND BROOMBALL TOURNEY SCORES

WINNING TEAMS

BROOMBALL: Waskaganish Starlites
CLASS A HOCKEY: Mistissini Trappers
CLASS B HOCKEY: Maniwaki Algonquin Braves
CLASS C HOCKEY (27-35 YRS): Chisasibi Ex-Hunters
OLDTIMERS HOCKEY (35 YRS+): Mist.Truckers

ALL-STARS

BROOMBALL

Best Forward: #99 Mary Ann Blackned (Nem.Lightnings)
 Best Forward: #10 Rachel M. Hester (Waskaganish Starlites)
 Best Forward: #44 Nancy Papatie (Lac Simon Lakers)
 Best Defense: #33 Louisa Diamond (Waskaganish Starlites)
 Best Defense: #23 Maureen Papatie (Lac Simon Starlites)
 Best Goalie: #88 Yoland Gunn (Lac Simon Lakers)
 Top Scorer: #66 Beatrice Georgekish (Wemindji Wolverines)
 M.V.P.: #22 Debbie Stephen (Waskaganish Starlites)
 Best Coach: Jim Hester (Waskaganish Starlites)

CLASS A HOCKEY

Best Forward: #88 Brian Bearskin (Chisasibi Hunters)
 Best Forward: #25 Gordon Cheecho (MF Scrappers)
 Best Forward: #16 Darren Moar (Moose Factory Scrappers)
 Best Defense: #66 Clayton Visitor (Chisasibi Hunters)
 Best Defense: #2 Mike Penassee (Mistissini Trappers)
 Best Goalie: #1 Luke Mianscum (Mistissini Trappers)
 Top Scorer: #7 Steve Cheecho (Mistissini Trappers)
 M.V.P.: #7 Steve Cheecho (Mistissini Trappers)
 Best Coach: Jeff Spencer (Mistissini Trappers)

CLASS B HOCKEY

Best Forward: #22 Casey Ratt (Rapid Lake Devils)
 Best Forward: #29 Aurel Hamel (Maniwaki Braves)
 Best Forward: #44 Clifford Benac (Mistissini Winter Hawks)
 Best Defense: #6 Issac Swallow (Fort George Warriors)
 Best Defense: #3 Don Decontie (Maniwaki Braves)
 Best Goalie: #00 Charlie Brien (Mistissini Winter Hawks)
 Top Scorer: #44 Jason Dumont (Lac Simon Beavers)
 M.V.P.: #11 Roch Lachapel (Maniwaki Braves)
 Best Coach: Maniwaki Braves (no name given)

CLASS C HOCKEY

Best Forward: #27 Matthew Swallow (Nemaska)
 Best Forward: #27 Bobby Gull (Waswanipi Blue Brothers)
 Best Forward: #12 Henry Weistche (Maquatua Senators)
 Best Defense: #15 John Pash (Chisasibi Ex-Hunters)
 Best Defense: #14 Thomas Katapatuk (Wask. Ex-Wings)
 Best Goalie: #1 George Gilpin (Waswanipi Blue Brothers)
 Top Scorer: #21 Matthew Happyjack (Wasw. Blue Brothers)
 M.V.P.: #10 Raymond Hester (Waskaganish Ex-Wings)
 Best Coach: Adrian Chiskamish (Chisasibi Ex-Hunters)

OLDTIMERS HOCKEY

Best Forward: #16 Fred Cheezo (Old Factory Islanders)
 Best Forward: #12 Emmett Matoush (Mistissini)
 Best Forward: #7 Miller Visitor (Old Factory Islanders)
 Best Defense: #66 Louis Sealhunter (Chisasibi Relics)

Best Defense: #47 James Gilpin (Old Factory Islanders)
 Best Goalie: #00 Jimmy Mayappo (Old Factory Islanders)
 Top Scorer: #10 Matthew Hughboy (Old Factory Islanders)
 M.V.P.: #35 Pierre Shecapio (Mistissini)
 Best Coach: Willie Gunner (Mistissini)

BROOMBALL SCORES

Lac Simon Lakers 1 vs Chis. North Stars 1
 Mist. Lakers 2 vs Eastmain 0
 Nemaska Centrals 5 vs Barrier Lake 0
 Kitasagik 0 vs Waswanipi 0
 Waskaganish 3 vs Chis. Scorpions 0
 Lac Simon Animiki 1 vs Lac Simon Lightning 0
 Wemindji Wolverines 4 vs Nemaska Lightning 1
 Lac Simon Lakers 1 vs Mist. Lakes 0
 Chis. North Stars 5 vs Eastmain 0
 Barrier Lake 0 vs Waswanipi 4
 Waskaganish 1 vs Lac Simon Animiki 0
 Chisasibi Scorpions 4 vs Lac Simon Lightning 0
 Nemaska Centrals 1 vs Kitasagik 0
 Nemaska Lightning 3 vs Ouje Bougoumou 0
 Lac Simon Lakers 3 vs Eastmain 0
 Chisasibi North Stars 3 vs Mist. Lakers 0
 Nemaska Centrals 0 vs Waswanipi 0
 Waskaganish 5 vs Lac Simon Lightning 0
 Chisasibi Scorpions 3 vs Lac Simon Animiki 0
 Wemindji Wolverines 8 vs Ouje Bougoumou 0
 Barrier Lake 2 vs Kitasagik 0
 Nemaska Lightning 2 vs Ouje Bougoumou 0

PLAYOFFS

Chis. N S (1st Del) 0 vs Waswanipi (2nd St-Hubert) 1
 Nem. Centrals (1st St-Hubert) 0 vs Lac Simon (2nd Del) 3
 Wask. (1st Cdn Tire) 3 vs Nem. Lightning (2nd CIBC) 0
 Wemindji (1st CIBC) vs Chis. Scorpions (2nd Cdn Tire) 0

SEMI-FINALS

Waswanipi 0 vs Lac Simon 3
 Waskaganish 2 vs Wemindji 1

FINALS

Lac Simon 1 vs Waskaganish 2 (*overtime score*)

CLASS A SCORES

M&M Selects 6 vs Waswanipi Chiefs 3
 MF Scrappers 3 vs Kahnawake Warriors 2
 Mist. Trappers 5 vs Chisasibi Hunters 2
 Wask. Wings 6 vs Wemindji Wolves 4
 MF Scrappers 6 vs Wemindji Wolves 4
 M&M Selects 3 vs Chisasibi Hunters 7
 Waswanipi Chiefs 3 vs Mist. Trappers 6
 Wask. Wings 5 vs Kahnawake 1
 M&M Selects 1 vs Mist. Trappers 3
 Kahnawake 7 vs Wemindji Wolves 3
 Chisasibi Hunters 5 vs Waswanipi Chiefs 2
 MF Scrappers 4 vs Wask. Wings 1

SEMI-FINALS

Mistissini (1st Div. A) 9 vs Waskaganish (2nd Div. B) 3
 MF Scrappers (1st Div. B) 5 vs Chisasibi (2nd Div. A) 3

FINALS

Mistissini Trappers (winner game 13) 3 vs
 Moose Factory Scrappers (winner game 14) 2
 (*overtime score*)

CLASS B SCORES

Lac Simon Beavers 14 vs Waswanipi Beach Boys 1
 Whapmagoostui 55 1 vs Pikogan White Hawks 6
 Maniwaki Algonquin Braves 1 vs Ft-George Warriors 3
 Waswanipi Cool Cats 7 vs Notre Dame du Nord Beavers 2
 Wemindji Slyfoxes 3 vs Rapid Lake Devils 3
 Mist. Northern Eagles 0 vs Nemaska Stars 3
 Mist. Winter Hawks 9 vs Northbay Hawkeyes 0
 Maouane 5 vs Ouje Bougoumou Drummers 1
 Lac Simon Beavers 8 vs Whapmagoostui 55 3
 Waswanipi Beach Boys 1 vs Pikogan White Hawks 12
 Maniwaki Algonquin Braves 7 vs Waswanipi Cool Cats 1
 Ft-George Warriors 12 vs Notre Dame du Nord Beavers 6
 Wemindji Slyfoxes 4 vs Mist. Northern Eagles 3
 Rapid Lake Devils 5 vs Nemaska Stars 2
 Mistissini Winter Hawks 7 vs Manouane 2
 Northbay Hawkeyes 6 vs Ouje Bougoumou Drummers 2
 Lac Simon Beavers 5 vs Pikogan White Hawks 5
 Waswanipi Beach Boys 9 vs Whapmagoostui 55 1
 Maniwaki Algonquin Braves 13 vs
 Notre Dame du Nord Beavers 2
 Ft-George Warriors 7 vs Waswanipi Cool Cats 2
 Wemindji Slyfoxes 6 vs Nemaska Stars 3
 Rapid Lake Devils 6 vs Mist. Northern Eagles 2
 Mist. Winter Hawks 19 vs Ouje Bougoumou 2
 Northbay Hawkeyes 0 vs Manouane 5

PLAYOFFS

Lac Simon (1st CreeCo.) 4 vs Maniwaki (2nd Kepa) 7
 Ft-George (1st Kepa) 1 vs Pikogan (2nd CreeCo.) 0
 Rapid Lake (1st Cree Energy) 2 vs
 Manouane (2nd Gilbert Sport) 1
 Mist. Winter Hawks (1st Gilbert Sport) 5 vs
 Wemindji Slyfoxes (2nd Cree Energy) 2
 Maniwaki (winner game 25) 6 vs
 Ft-George (winner game 26) 2
 Rapid Lake (winner game 27) 4 vs
 Mistissini Winter Hawks (winner game 28) 3

FINALS

Maniwaki (winner game 29) 3 vs
 Rapid Lake (winner game 30) 2 (*overtime score*)

CLASS C SCORES

Maquatua Senators 7 vs Lac Simon 4
 Waskaganish 9 vs Nemaska 1
 Waswanipi 6 vs Chisasibi 7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

YOUR BEST VAL D'OR TOURNAMENT MEMORIES

THE NATION WAS ON THE SCENE AT THIS YEAR'S HOCKEY AND BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT IN VAL D'OR. WE ASKED YOU TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES FROM PREVIOUS TOURNAMENTS. HERE'S WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY:

"It was when Waskaganish was playing the CRA Drummers. Oscar Kistabish was playing for the Drummers and someone threw a garbage can onto the ice and yelled out, 'Oscar, get in!'"
Walter Hester Jr., 39



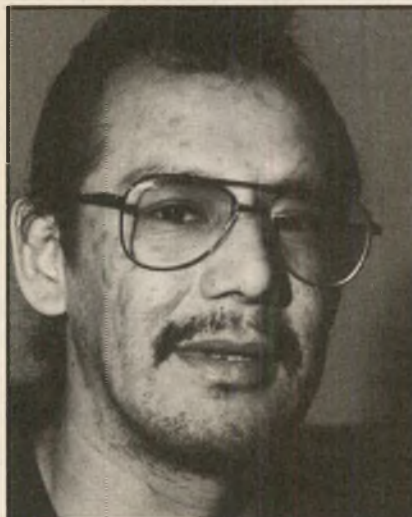
"It's well organized. I like it because it's good hockey but there's no battles. It's social hockey. It's competitive but without the violence."
Jackelyne Loiselle, 52
 (Val d'Or)



"When we won. I was so glad."
Gloria Anishnabeu, 17
 (Lac Simon)



"When the Wolves slaughtered the Waswanipi Chiefs 7-2."
Joe Blackned, 37



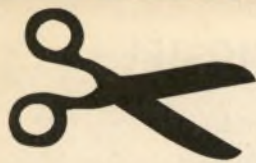
"It's my first tournament ... Maybe tonight."
Leslie Gull, 26



NATION PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND



"Billy Diamond drumming."
John Boudrias, 24



MAKE YOUR OWN

FLIP CARDS

Only from *The Nation* can you get the feel of the Val d'Or tournament if you weren't there. It requires a little work but even a couch potato can do it. You need 11 matchbook covers, a pair of scissors, a stapler, glue and a willingness to cut up this copy of *The Nation*.



STEP 1. Cut out the pictures on this page. Cut along the dotted line. Keep the numbers at the bottom attached.

STEP 2. Take each picture and match to a matchbook cover. Cut to size.

STEP 3. Glue each picture to a different matchbook cover. Wait for them to dry.

STEP 4. Put them in order with the numbers at the bottom.

STEP 5. Staple the bottom just at the top of the numbers.

STEP 6. Grip the bottom with the numbers tightly in one hand using your thumb and index finger.

STEP 7. Using your other thumb, flip the cards and enjoy the action brought to you courtesy of *The Nation*.

NATION PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND

Dances with Liberals

Ethel Blondin-Andrew is the most powerful First Nations person in the government of Canada. It's a constant balancing act, knowing when to give and when to take. "You have to dance with the ones who brung you," says Blondin, a Dene woman born in Fort Norman, NWT and, now, the new Liberal Minister of Youth and Training. "You have to know the rules of political survival."

The Nation's Alex Roslin spoke to her in late November, a month after the Liberals swept the federal election, to get some hints about how her government plans to deal with the Crees and other First Nations.

Blondin-Andrew spoke frankly on some issues like extinguishment and women's rights. But when it came to one key issue - Great Whale - she had to dance.

by Alex Roslin



How did you get interested in politics?

Before I got involved in politics, I was a bureaucrat. From 1984 to 1986, I was at the Public Service Commission of Canada, and from 1986 until I was first elected in 1988, I was Assistant Deputy Minister of Culture and Communications. In everything I've done, I've wanted to effect change and I began to realize how limited that was as a bureaucrat. I was more into administration, operations and maintenance than policy-making. I was always pronouncing myself on policy, which wasn't my job. I would have had to sooner or later seek a mandate or get into trouble or get fired for making policy pronouncements.

Were you surprised to be made a minister? I understand you were hoping to be made Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Well, I was pleased to become Minister of Youth and Training. It's a great opportunity, you know. I didn't fall over surprised, but I was pleasantly pleased. I wasn't hoping for anything because I think it's foolish in politics to hope.

What's it like being a First Nations person in the middle of the Ottawa political system?

It's a delicate balance. You continually have to know how far you can push something and when to retreat. You have to know the rules of political survival, too. You have to sort of dance with the ones who brung you and you also have to know when

there's time for intellectual sparring and when it's time to get to work and get things done.

What challenges do you face as a northerner?

Travel. My family is up north. I'm lucky because I had my children when I was quite young and my kids are all basically grown up. They're on their own. But I like to get home because it keeps you planted on the ground. You learn not to lose touch. I always remember a very simple rule: I wasn't elected in Ottawa; I was elected in the Northwest Territories. These people down here don't vote for me. You've got to remember that all the Tory cabinet members went down except for one. Being a big, powerful person is not necessarily going to get you re-elected.

How about as a woman? Do you find Ottawa to be an old boy's club?

I find any kind of restriction that's imposed to be very artificial and inconsequential because I was raised in a family where the women are very, very strong. My grandmother was a matriarch, my grandfather was a chief. My grandmother was an advisor to a lot of the male leaders. I've never known what gender inequality is. I've always been raised to believe I'm equal.

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal People just passed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Dances...



PHOTO BY: GW TUNDRA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

through Montreal. What do you hope will come of its work?

I believe things will come out that will reaffirm certain ideas about self-government. There will be policy things, like land claims and extinguishment. On process, there will be recommendations - on education, on the rights of children. It will reaffirm or else add a few new ideas.

But it doesn't sound like anything new or revolutionary.

There's always room for new ideas. I think there will be some very strong recommendations. What will be revolutionary is if the government responds in the way the Royal Commission recommends.

One of the issues the commission is focusing on is extinguishment (*the forced relinquishment of aboriginal rights in exchange for settlement of a land claim*). Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come opposes this policy. What's your position?

There's an approach being bandied about called "affirmation of rights," rather than extinguishment. I think it's a great idea. What we have to do is enact our election platform - a major overhaul of land-claims policy, specifically in three areas. One is to remove the precondition for blanket extinguishment. Two is to make a provision for self-government to be negotiated within a claim. The other is to create an independent Indian land-claims commission.

So you think the current land-claims process is flawed?

I find it compromising because the government funds, presides over, adjudicates over and consults justices on issues that affect claims. It's rather contradictory and a conflict-of-interest.

The Liberal Party supported the Charlottetown Accord even though the Native Women's Association of Canada had strong reservations. Do you think there was room for amendments to the accord?

The debate is still out on collective versus individual rights. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is an individual-rights document. We've had problems in our community because the rights of individual women have been abused, and in some cases totally ignored. That's a legitimate complaint on the part of those women. However, there are communities that have had a role and respect for women's rights, so you can't tar everyone with the same brush.

Having said that, I believe the sticking point was not necessarily the lack of provision for protection, but a lack of trust on the part of the women and on the part of other people who didn't support the Charlottetown Accord because of past injustices and some current situations. But you cannot legislate trust.

What's the answer then?

The answer is we have a problem of rebuilding and healing in our communities and we have serious problems there that need to be dealt with. How we deal with it I don't think is necessarily the constitution.

... with Liberals

Or the Charter of Rights?

Well, you know, it's a guide. It has the full force of law, but it isn't everything. You can't legislate what happens in the hearts and minds of people.

We wanted to get some hints from your government on some important issues for Crees. First, what do you think of the Great Whale and NBR hydro-projects?

You have to remember I'm one of the people who went on behalf of the Crees of James Bay to the New York State legislature to speak against the bill that was going to purchase hydro. I went to a lot of trouble. We did, in fact, end up winning.

Do you mean there was trouble from your own party?

Just trouble in general. [Tory leadership hopeful Jean] Charest was after me. The Conservatives were very upset with me.

How about your own party?

I sought approval and I was given approval. They did not turn against me. They trusted me. We've taken a position on Rafferty, Oldman River, Anwar. Why is Great Whale hands off?

So will there be more federal intervention in Great Whale with the Liberals in power?

I can't say that. I'm not the Minister of Environment. I'm not the Intergovernmental Affairs Minister. I cannot even begin to make a statement on that.

What is your personal view?

I don't have a personal view because I'm a minister. You know that.

But I guess you'll be pushing in cabinet and caucus for more intervention.

I can't even say that because I'm not a full cabinet minister. Generally, the rule for caucus is that caucus belongs to those who don't have a role at cabinet.

Let me read you something Matthew Coon-Come recently told the Royal Commission: "Even at the UN and elsewhere, the federal government leads the effort to hinder our attempts to establish a minimum recognition of aboriginal rights." Do you think that will change under your government?

You'll have to ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. It certainly wouldn't be me who would speak on that. But if you look at my statements, it's been fairly clear where I've stood in the past.

Another big issue raised by Matthew Coon-Come was Quebec sovereignty. Crees have many concerns about their own relationship with both Quebec and Canada. What would you tell the Crees on this issue?

I think the First Nations of Quebec have a very strong federal

presence. They have two Acts they can invoke to remain within Canada if Quebec separates. That bodes well for the government as well as for the First Nations of Quebec. Part of our platform is to develop what we call the bilateral treaty process, where these kinds of issues can be dealt with in earnest. Mr. [Ron] Irwin [the new Indian Affairs Minister] is already consulting aboriginal peoples on these kinds of issues. He probably should be meeting with the Crees of James Bay pretty soon. [No meeting is planned at the moment -ed.]

So do you think the Crees should invoke these Acts to remain within Canada?

I would believe yes. Aboriginal self-determination is based on some very time-honoured traditions - sharing, cooperation, not alienation and separation. It's based on belonging to and being equal with others, not going for total independence. I believe the Crees of James Bay are very beholden to that view. This is their country.

You mean Canada?

Oh yeah. I think it's understood that the Crees of James Bay are not looking for isolation or alienation. They're looking for equality and partnership.

Are you worried about the debate over sovereignty? It could be very divisive.

I'm not fearful at all. I think Canada will endure. We're going to go through a few rough years, but I really believe that outside the constitutional issue we have some pressing issues - high unemployment, poverty. I think reality is starting to set in with some of the people who have other aspirations. You can't fight for the independence of a poor country.



NATION PHOTO: JORDAN BOBBISH

ROBERTSON & KASHTIN GROOVE TOGETHER

Robbie Robertson, the former singer-guitarist from The Band, was in Montreal in early December recording music with local boys Kashtin for an upcoming TV series. Robertson, who is half-Mohawk, worked with Kashtin on a song called *Akua Tuta* (Innu for "take care") for a series on First Nations history produced by U.S. TV mogul Ted Turner. Born in Toronto, Robertson is just now rediscovering his First Nations roots, something that has influenced songs on his recent solo albums like *Broken Arrow*.

Robertson told a Montreal daily newspaper he's trying to "send out to the world an impression of Indian music from this continent." He added, "I'm trying to set the record straight and also give the proper impression that native music isn't just lost in the past."

- by Nation staff



NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

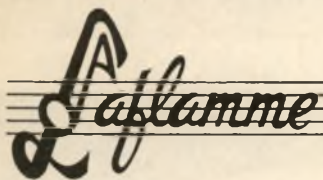


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Coming on CBC TV

A look back at the main events of the Cree Nation in 1993 launches the new year of Maamuitaau on Saturday January 15.

On January 22, Maamuitaau presents the first installment of a two-part series from the first traditional gathering held in Whapmagoostui last summer. Cree and Inuit from across the James Bay homeland gathered to practice and preserve traditional culture and educate young people in the old ways.

Watch Maamuitaau:

Fridays	14:30	TVNC
	18:00	CBC North
	22:00	TVNC
Saturdays	06:45	SRC
Sundays	08:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC
	20:30	TVNC

CBC  **North**

The following essay by Bonnie Fireman won first prize in a writing contest at the James Bay Eeyou School in Chisasibi.

WHY DO STUDENTS DROP OUT?

Students drop out because of lack of motivation, boredom and low self-esteem.

I think the problem starts at the elementary level because in my experience some of the teachers don't really care about their students' problems. I know some students who were in the elementary level who passed a grade or year because they were too old for the class, even though they didn't understand or weren't doing too well in the class they were in.

But some of the problems are not only in the school. Some students also have family problems. Teachers should know or sense if there is a problem with their students, not just dismiss it as students acting up. Or try to make their teaching difficult.

Good teachers should think of their students' feelings as well as their studies and should always be there for them and try and understand them. Students should also learn that they are not in school to pass their time just sitting around but to learn and prepare for life - because they are important too; because they are the future; because without them there wouldn't be a future.

This problem just doesn't concern students and teachers. It concerns everybody. School should be fun! Students should come out of school feeling they are no. 1, not feeling that they are worthless and no good. So let's try to help them feel no. 1.



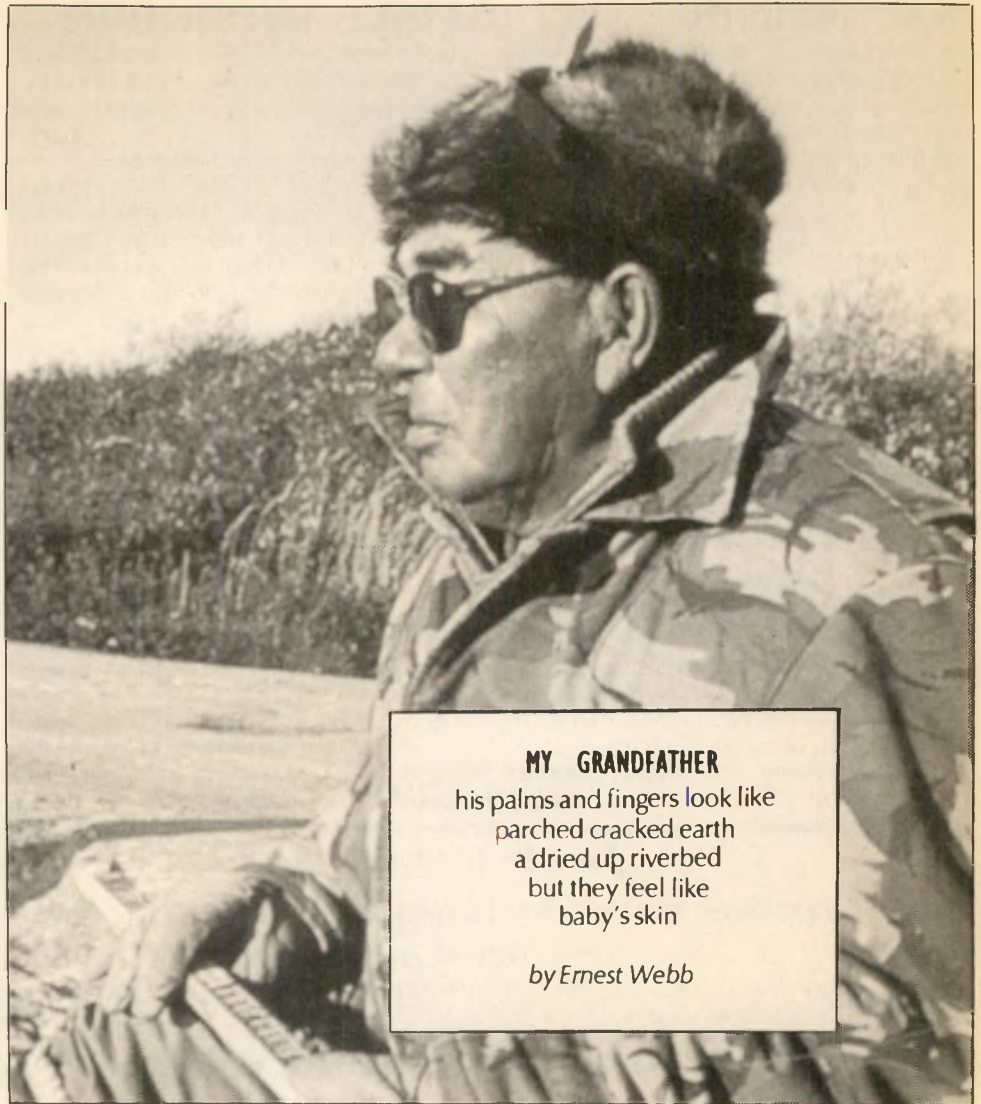
The following essay was written by Marion Gilpin, Secondaire II, Ecole Wiinibekuu, Waskaganish.

MON VILLAGE: WASKAGANISH

Je vais vous parler de mon village: Waskaganish. Dans mon village, c'est très beau. J'aime mon village, parce que c'est ici que je vis depuis 14 ans. Il y a beaucoup de choses à Waskaganish. Il y a l'aréna, le "Mini Mall," le magasin "Northern," "Mampt Store," le bureau de poste, etc.

Quand l'école est finie, à tous les vendredis à 21h30, il y a une danse au Centre récréatif, près du Conseil de bande.

Il y a beaucoup de maisons. Les maisons sont toutes grandes ou un peu plus petites. Ici, à Waskaganish, il y a aussi beaucoup de toumois. Des personnes arrivent pour jouer au hockey et au ballon-balai. J'aime mon village, Waskaganish, parce que c'est très beau.



MY GRANDFATHER

his palms and fingers look like
parched cracked earth
a dried up riverbed
but they feel like
baby's skin

by Ernest Webb

PHOTO BY: SARINE PLUSCH

FOND MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

I remember what Christmas was like when I was a child.

They are my fondest memories.

My family and I would leave for the bush at the beginning of September every year and we wouldn't return to Fort George Island until late July. I guess before we left for the year, my parents bought some hard candy and some gum for Christmas. Sometimes, my father would come to the island before Christmas by dog-team if he had any furs to trade.

When the first snowfall came, we got all excited because Santa would be coming soon and he would bring us some candy and gum. When Christmas Eve came, everyone including the children would work hard all day cutting wood, getting water so no one would have to work on Christmas Day - everyone was happy and full of energy.

Before bedtime on Christmas Eve, my mother used to cut material (about 3" by 5") for us girls to sew into little bags. When Christmas morning arrived, we couldn't wait for my father to make the fire in the wood stove because the temperature was usually between -30 and -40 degrees Celsius. Out of our little bags were a few hard candies, a stick of gum and maybe some bannock. We were the happiest kids in the whole world.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, especially to my children and grandchildren - Jordan, and to Alexander and Kataleen for their first Christmas.

- by Eliza Webb

INTERVIEW WITH VIOLA ROBINSON CO-CHAIRING THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Early December saw the last public hearings of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The *Nation* was on-hand to get the impressions of Viola Robinson, co-chair of the commission and former national leader of the Native Council of Canada.

"This has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life," Robinson said.

She said the Royal Commission was created because "Canadian people in general were getting tired of aboriginal people complaining and complaining." At the same time, the government didn't seem to be addressing the problems. The commission was successful, she said, because First Nations people were involved in all the stages of its work. Sixty seven per cent of the commission's staff is of First Nations descent, she noted.

Robinson was skeptical about previous inquiries into aboriginal affairs. "I was sick of it," she said. "They don't go anywhere and they've never been productive." She said First Nations people have been studied almost to death and noted that there have already been good recommendations in the past. But she believes good will come of this

commission's work. This time, she insisted, the Prime Minister will receive the commission's report and won't be able to avoid dealing with it.

The problems are similar across Canada - suicides, lack of a resource base, dependency on government. Winnipeg is often called the largest reserve in Canada, Robinson said. "When you go out on the streets at night and see six- and seven-year-old native children, that's one of the scariest things the commission saw. All these people falling through the cracks and no way to help them. The service organizations can't access the dollars that would help alleviate the problem."

The commission's biggest challenge, as Robinson sees it, is dealing with the urban situation. Bands and First Nations communities at least have some infrastructure in place or links to other levels of government, whereas a First Nations support infrastructure is sorely lacking in urban centres. Friendship centres have been a big help, but she said they live from year to year in fear of not having enough funding. Some witnesses before the commission argued for status-blind services - ones available to any aboriginal



NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

person, not a specific nation. But others argued for the opposite - services targeting just their own people. "Our report will reflect what we've heard," Robinson commented. "Everything will be weighed."

Robinson struck a positive note when she pointed to the achievements of communities such as Alkali Lake, B.C., which is a role model for dealing with suicide, alcoholism and family violence. She also cited the example of Grand Lac Victoria, Quebec, which has successfully started dealing with child abuse, incest and family violence.

The Royal Commission will release new reports by the spring on suicide, residential schools, High Arctic exiles and extinguishment.

BY WILL NICHOLLS

To all members of the Cree Nations:

***Wishing you every happiness that this festive holiday can bring
and a prosperous New Year.***

Christmas is a special time of year for Crees. It is one of the cornerstones of Cree culture in that it's a time of getting together and sharing what we have with each other. A time to renew old friendships and to talk about what's happened throughout the year. A time that we spend with our children, the future of our nation, and the reflections of joy that all Crees feel in looking at the potential they represent.

In today's world not all Crees or their children may have the opportunity to enjoy the holidays as much as you may. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" has always been a part of our way of life. We ask you to practise it this Christmas and throughout the year to help others less fortunate than you.

May we stand in unity this year and in years to come!

In this way we continue to grow strong.

***A Merry Christmas for one and all...
the Cree way.***

Council of the Mistissini Band

PHOTO BY: PIERRE LEMAY

REPORT CARD ON EDUCATION

BIG CHALLENGES

FACE CREE SCHOOLS

Parents and elders need to get more involved in the Cree education system to solve the many problems facing the territory's schools, says the Cree School Board.

The school board submitted a report to the general assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees that says Cree schools suffer from a lack of parental involvement, high rates of absenteeism and apathy among students, poor quality Cree culture and language programs, and a lack of resources. The report follows a year-long review of the Cree school system.

But not all the news is bad. The number of Crees attending post-secondary institutions doubled over the last five years, reaching a record total of 350 students last year. Over 60 Crees graduated from post-secondary schools last year.

Nonetheless, the report's authors, school board chair Paul Gull and director-general Janie Pachano, express deep concern about the many challenges facing the education system. "The purpose of this report is to highlight the negative so people can see what we are facing, not just as a school board but as a nation."

Gull and Pachano cite alarming statistics to highlight the problems. For every 100 Cree children who enter Grade 1, only 17 finish Secondary V. In one Cree high school, students cut classes 30 per cent more often than the Quebec average.

"Too many of our dropouts don't seem to have any purpose in life," say Gull and Pachano. "Too many of them turn to alcohol and drugs; too many of them end up taking their own lives because they can find no alternative. They see their future as a bleak one, as one with no hope. We must come up with solutions that will help these children who drop out, while at the same time encouraging those who want to continue their education."

The authors add, "If we can turn out happy and productive children, we will have succeeded in our mission, even if students continue to drop out at alarming rates." The school board is continuing efforts to study the dropout problem.

The quality of Cree culture and language education also came in for criticism. "There is not a single community that is satisfied with the quality of what we are offering in the way of Cree culture and language. What we are offering is a very superficial view of culture," say Gull and Pachano. "Cree culture was never meant to be restricted to the classroom because what is part of our culture comes from the land and that is where the lessons for Cree culture are, not in a classroom."

To solve this problem, Gull and Pachano add, more involvement is needed from the elders. The school board is closely watching two pilot Cree language



PHOTO BY: GW TUNDRA

projects, one in Waskaganish and one in Chisasibi, as possible models for other communities.

Gull and Pachano also express concern about "the general lack of interest that our students have shown in progressing beyond a certain level, not just in school but in their daily lives." They say students need "a more relevant curriculum; that is, something that the students could relate to."

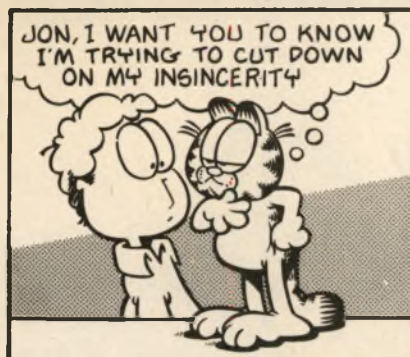
Finally, the authors observe that many Cree parents feel they are "not welcome" in the schools. This feeling, they add, is partly a result of language barriers between parents and teachers.

Improving the quality of education will require a concerted effort by Cree parents and elders, band councils, the health board and other Cree institutions, conclude Gull and Pachano.

"We have depended on outside resources for too long. Let us help our own people to get the education required to help us so we can truly run our own lives again in the future."

BY ALEX ROSLIN

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



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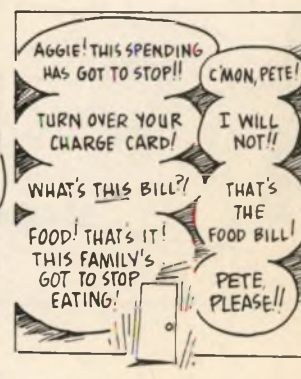
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Mr. Yvon Gareau, general manager, is pleased to announce he has hired a Cree mechanic, Warren McKee, from Chisasibi. Warren can translate from English to Cree if you don't speak French.

Nintendo

SUPER NES

#1



SEGA

THE NATION RATES VIDEO GAME SYSTEMS

BY WILL NICHOLLS

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Confused by the variety of video games on the market as Christmas approaches? Well, worry no more. *The Nation* has decided to take a closer look at what's out there. The following is our rating of what's worth buying and what's a lemon.

Nintendo Super NES. The hottest system on the market. The quality of the games has gotten better and the game library is huge. Accessories such as the Super Scope 6 and Virtual Reality make this the system to beat. We recommend it at \$99.99.

Sega Genesis. Ideal for sports game fanatics. Has a big library of quality games. Add-ons include CD-ROM and Sega VR. *The Nation* enjoyed playing it at \$99.99.

Sega CD. Games are slow in coming but the price has dropped. The games that are available are a lot fun. Costs start at \$229.99.

T.T.I Duo. A little too pricey just to buy a back up CD player at \$299.99.

SNK NEO*GEO. The only system to feature arcade-quality games. You may want to wait on this one because the price is going down and the number of games is limited. A true joy to see and play at a new lower price of \$499.99.

Panasonic 3DO. Don't allow yourself to play this baby because you'll want to buy it even though it's no worth it right now. While there isn't a lot of games right now, the quality is fantastic. But this baby'll Crash N' Burn™ a hole in your pocketbook at \$699.99.

Atari Jaguar. CD-ROM and a 64-bit power system make this one of the most powerful affordable systems on the market. Let's hope someone starts making games for it. We recommend waiting, but this cat is out of the bag at \$249.99.

Sega Game Gear. Best mini-system on the market at \$99.99.

Don't buy these systems: Nintendo Gameboy, Atari Lynx, T.T.I. Turboexpress, the NES Nintendo system, Phillips CD-1, Pioneer Laseractive or Amiga CD. Trust us on these.

Best bets for games: Mortal Combat, Samurai Showdown, Robocop vs The Terminator, Streetfighter 2, Alladin, Sonic, Starfox, Gunstar Hereos, Rock and Roll Racing, Madden 94', Clayfighter, Zombies Ate My Neighbors, Act Raiser, Super Mario World, Super Star Wars, Castle of Illusions, Ghouls and Ghosts, Flashbacks, Out of This World, Strider and Super Monaco GP.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS



Happy First Birthday, (dec. 1) Gabriel Paul Caron-Otter!!! May you grow up to be strong in body and mind. May the wisdom and knowledge of our Elders guide you in every step of the way, and above all, may the Creator of All be your inspiration in all you do...

Love, mom, Helene Caron and dad Claude Otter, all members of the Caron, Otter and Blacksmith Families

Your baby's photo could appear right here. Fill out *the Nation's* classified form.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The following people extend their Christmas greetings to *Nation* readers:

All the chiefs, The MacLeod
family, The Quinns,
The Nicholls, The Mianscums,
The Petawabanos, The Brians,
The Webbs, Kenny Blacksmith,
The Coon-Comes, The Hesters,
The Bainbridges, The Giroux
James O'Reilly, James Shecapio

WEDDINGS

Get married recently? Let the Nation know!! Fill out and send in *the Nation's* classified form along with your photo.

MISC.

Free Classifieds for all Cree residents. Yes, we're giving you the chance to announce births, marriages, anniversaries, birthdays... This special offer is valid only until February 1994. Available for individuals only, not for businesses. Classifieds with photos are not included in this special.

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Our January 19 issue will feature Cree education, as well as interviews with Kenny Blacksmith and James Shecapio, and TV listings.

Submissions welcome (deadline: Jan. 12).

... 'Till then, Happy Holidays!

CSB BASKETBALL

DIVISION A DIVISION B

Chisasibi Nemaska

Wemindji Eastmain

Waswanipi Mistissini

CHISASIBI Boys'

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

November 26 & 27

(HOME vs AWAY)

Mistissini 48 vs Nemaska 21
Wemindji 14 vs Waswanipi 30
Eastmain 47 vs Mistissini 20
Chisasibi 37 vs Wemindji 29
Eastmain 41 vs Waswanipi 14
Nemaska 17 vs Chisasibi 53
Waswanipi 38 vs Chisasibi 40
Eastmain 02 vs Nemaska 00
Mistissini 50 vs Waswanipi 30
Wemindji 24 vs Eastmain 36
Waswanipi 02 vs Nemaska 00
Chisasibi 49 vs Mistissini 35
Nemaska 37 vs Wemindji 36
Chisasibi 37 vs Eastmain 33
Mistissini 40 vs Wemindji 46

Semi-Finals

Chisasibi 47 vs Waswanipi 27
Eastmain 27 vs Mistissini 39

Finals

Chisasibi 48 vs Eastmain 47

WEMINDJI GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

November 26 & 27

Nemaska 12 vs Wemindji 30
Eastmain 13 vs Mistissini 20
Chisasibi 62 vs Nemaska 4
Eastmain 10 vs Wemindji 32
Mistissini 11 vs Chisasibi 36
Nemaska 11 vs Eastmain 20
Chisasibi 44 vs Wemindji 14
Mistissini 29 vs Nemaska 9
Eastmain 3 vs Chisasibi 48
Mistissini 14 vs Wemindji 19

Semi-Finals

Chisasibi (1st place) 43 vs Eastmain (4th place) 13
Wemindji (2nd place) 22 vs Mistissini (3rd place) 20

Finals

CONSOLATION GAME: Mistissini 26 vs Eastmain 23
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Chisasibi 37 vs Wemindji 16



NATION PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

...VAL d'Or TOURNAMENT SCORES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Maquatua Senators 0 vs Waskaganish 2
Waswanipi 4 vs Nemaska 6
Chisasibi 3 vs Lac Simon 2
Lac Simon 1 vs Nemaska 3
Maquatua Senators 5 vs Waswanipi 9
Chisasibi 3 vs Waskaganish 4

PLAYOFFS

Waskaganish (1st Div. A) 3 vs Nemaska (2nd Div. B) 1
Chis. Ex-Hunters (1st Div. B) 10 vs
Waswanipi Blues Brothers (2nd Div. A) 3

FINALS

Waskaganish (winner game 10) 3 vs
Chisasibi Ex-Hunters (winner game 11) 4

OLDTIMER SCORES

Waskaganish 2 vs Mistissini 3

Waswanipi 3 vs Lac Simon 5
Old Factory Islanders 9 vs Chisasibi 1
KZ No Stars 1 vs Maniwaki 0
Waskaganish 2 vs Waswanipi 3
Mistissini 5 vs Lac Simon 2
Old Factory Islanders 12 vs KZ No Stars 0
Chisasibi 4 vs Maniwaki 0
Waskaganish 1 vs Lac Simon 3
Old Factory Islanders 9 vs Maniwaki 3
Mistissini 3 vs Waswanipi 5
Chisasibi 7 vs KZ No Stars 2

PLAYOFFS

Mistissini (1st Div. A) 3 vs Chisasibi (2nd Div. B) 2
Old Factory (1st Div. B) 5 vs Waswanipi (2nd Div. A) 2

FINALS

Mistissini (winner game 13) 3 vs
Old Factory (winner game 14) 2 (overtime score)

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